

14 January 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Services – Councillor R Lancaster

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

Cheylemore

Title: London Road Cemetery – Application for Heritage Lottery Funding

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The Council, in partnership with Historic Coventry Trust, has developed a proposed outline scheme to restore the Grade 1 Listed Joseph Paxton designed Arboretum Cemetery which is one of the top 5 historic cemeteries in the UK, as a visitor attraction, park for local people and education resource. The project will reinstate the original landscape design, repair of major features including the promenade and listed chapel and multiple monuments and graves. The project will include community engagement, educational and the empowerment and training for increased volunteer activities to improve future maintenance.

The outline scheme covers a number of interventions which would enhance the appearance and the future use of the London Road Cemetery. A number of external funding applications would be sought to form a funding package to cover the project.

The activities that a full Parks Heritage Lottery funding would support include:-

1. Landscaping of the Paxton Arboretum
2. Restoration of the listed chapel
3. Community involvement
4. Educational Programme
5. Future Maintenance Programme

The area is owned by Coventry City Council (see Appendix 2 Property ownership plan)

An application was made to The Heritage Lottery “Parks for People” for Stage 1 (HLF development stage) funding. As a result, the partnership has been awarded £305,800 towards the further development of the restoration scheme. was submitted in July 2015.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member for Public Services is asked to:-

1. Approve retrospectively the submission of the stage 1 application to Heritage Lottery Fund, "Parks for People" for the London Road Cemetery Project for £305,800.
2. Authorise the Council to act as the accountable body for the Stage 1 grant award.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Place and Legal Services Managers to finalise and enter into any necessary agreements in relation to the HLF funding.
4. Approve a local contribution of £20,000 from the Council's own funds towards the development stage to be used in addition to HLF Funding.
5. Authorise applications to other funding providers to develop a funding package for delivery of a phase 2 submission, subject to Cabinet Member approval limits.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Ownership Plan

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: London Road Cemetery – Application for Heritage Lottery Funding

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The London Road Cemetery is a Grade 1 Listed Arboretum Cemetery, designed by Joseph Paxton in 1845/6 at the height of his career. Paxton was commissioned by the Council to create one of the first municipal cemeteries in the Country. It is Paxton's only cemetery and is recognised by English heritage as one of the top five cemeteries in the Country.
- 1.2 The area has considerable potential and its location next to Charterhouse which has also secured lottery funding for the restoration of the building and gardens and will act as a complimentary facility to its future use.
- 1.3 The Council and the Historic Coventry Trust have developed a project proposal to reinstate the original landscape design of the cemetery and repair major features including the promenade, listed chapel and multiple monuments and graves. Whilst the project stands alone in its need and potential, there are added benefits of its inclusion within the overall heritage park. The impact of the proposal on the city will be greatly enhanced and the added benefit of shared car parking and arrival, joint promotion, management, volunteering and activity programme implications are significant. This benefit will be lost if the project is not delivered in tandem with the Charterhouse. The completion of one project will provide an initial focus for the area. The delivery of both together will provide a regional draw with more repeat visits and possibly weekend stays, which has much greater potential impact on the city's economy.
- 1.4 A stage 1 application to Heritage Lottery was submitted for grant funding to enable the project proposals to be developed in more detail and strengthen project deliverability. The application for £305,800 was successful, subject to a contribution from the Council of £20,000.
- 1.5 The collective pot of £325,800 will be used to appoint a professional team and specialist consultants to further develop the following proposals:

Anglican Chapel – Restoration of all stonework and building to provide a space which will be able to accommodate small weddings, community events, training etc (accommodating 70-100 depending on use and layout).

Promenade (Built Spaces Under) - The spaces under the raised walkway (the promenade) are to be fully restored. The intention is to restore the spaces and re-use them most likely for unmanned exhibition space, to be left open (during cemetery hours) or used in connection with guided tours.

Promenade (Retaining Wall) –The sandstone retaining wall will be restored, including partial take down and rebuild where the wall has fractured horizontally. Paxton's original design included sandstone balustrading to and either side of the bastions, which is to be reinstated

Restoration of all cemetery paths – This will include reinstatement of overgrown or covered over paths where possible to recreate the original layout. Paxton's layout created an impression of space and provided what felt like quite a long walk, in a relatively small park, making excellent use of changing levels and planting.

Headstones and Monuments Restoration - A programme of repair is being discussed with City College which will include up to 40 headstones and monuments, including some of the most notable and ornate graves. As this is a training project it might also take in smaller graves which provide training opportunities such as stone carving.

Graves Audit – An audit of graves/burials is included in the project, providing a full record of all graves, their locations and the stories behind some of the people buried at London Road Cemetery. This will be published and/or made available in digital format. An abridged version will be produced for general interest with a full version as a historic record and for reference.

Tree Audit - A thorough inspection of all trees, plotting their locations and species, size and any issues will be completed. Over the past four years the Council has been undertaking additional tree work at London Road Cemetery, to make it safe and prevent overgrowth. This work has prepared the cemetery for some replanting to restore the original scheme and this will be part of the restoration project.

Volunteering and Activities – The focus is on increasing visitor numbers, higher levels of activity, including volunteering, increased fund raising (through activities and sourcing grant aid) and provision of educational and training opportunities, especially in traditional building skills. To achieve these changes, the proposals include working with the Friends of London Road Cemetery group to look at its structure, operation and capacity and to ensure that the necessary skills are in place for it to take a greater role in the running of London Road Cemetery, alongside part time staff, the Council and the Charterhouse Trust.

- 1.6 These proposals will be developed sufficiently to enable a further application to be made to the HLF for the capital and revenue funds required to deliver the project (Stage 2 funding),
- 1.7 The project will generate revenue for Council staff to be allocated to work on the development stage and subsequent delivery stage. A project coordinator and grant management post will be funded.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The options to consider are whether to support the application submitted or withdraw it.
- 2.2 Option one - withdraw the application / do nothing – this will lead to further decline and deterioration of the area with increased maintenance costs.

Option two - support the Heritage Lottery Initiative stage 1 application and commit £20,000 from the Council's budget. This collective development stage budget of £325,800 will be used to further develop and explore the feasibility of the project and so that an application for stage 2 funding from the HLF can be submitted.

The officer recommendation is to support the Heritage Lottery Stage 1 application for London Road Cemetery.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Friends of London Road and Charterhouse Residents on the outline proposals.
- 3.2 No formal public consultation has taken place regarding the HLF submission. Public consultation will take place as part of the projects development stage and form the basis of the Stage 2 application for funds to implement the proposals.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If the recommendation to support is granted the following indicative timetable will be followed :-

- 4.1.1 The Stage 1 application to Heritage Lottery, Parks for People Initiative was submitted in March 2015.
- 4.1.2 Approval to stage 1 application by the HLF was obtained in July 2015
- 4.1.3 Development Stage work for Stage 2 application October 2015 – September 2016. This is the stage when the £20,000 from the Council's budget and £305,800 Parks for People Heritage Lottery Grant would be spent.
- 4.1.4 Cabinet approval for stage 2 submission June / July 2016
- 4.1.5 Stage 2 submission September 2016
- 4.1.6 Approval by Heritage of Stage 2 application January / February 2017
- 4.1.7 Physical implementation March 2017 – June 2018

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

The report requests retrospective approval for the submission of a stage 1 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People which was submitted in August 2015 and the permission to start which was submitted in September 2015.

Following the success of the stage 1 submission, the Council is required to contribute £20,000 towards the project development stage, leveraging in £305,800. The £20k local contribution will be identified from within the existing Streetpride & Greenspace revenue budgets. Indicatively, the development budget is expected to be spent as follows:

Development costs

Cost Heading	£
Professional fees	211639
New Staff Costs	75000
Recruitment	2000
Other costs	5000
Contingency	32161
Total	325800

Development income

Source of Funding	Value (£)
CCC	20000
HLF	305800
Total	325800

As accountable body for the development grant, the Council would need to ensure procurement processes are followed, payments processed and claims submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund on a timely basis. This is essential to ensure spend is deemed eligible and risk of clawback is minimised.

Full details of a potential scheme will be worked up as part of the development stage including the estimated delivery cost, funding opportunities, and any local contribution requirements. Final approval to progress to delivery stage would be subject to a separate report to Cabinet.

5.2 Legal implications

If successful the Council will be accepting a grant of £305,800 for the development stage work and compliance with any funding criteria and requirements. The Council would be the accountable body for the funding.

As accountable body, it is anticipated that the Council will be required to enter into an agreement with Heritage Lottery Funding to govern the terms and conditions of the grant funding.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

The success of the Stage 1 application will allow the release of funds to spend on the development of the project to a deliverable scheme. The delivery of the overall scheme will restore and improve the appearance of the Cemetery and religious buildings. In addition it will restore property, preserve our heritage, create new public facilities and park facilities.

The restoration of this area will also be a positive factor to the City of Culture bid.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Risk will be managed by the Council. The main risk is that the Stage 1 application is not approved and the project will not proceed further.

The Council will incur risk as the Accountable body in administering the grant but has a track record of successfully managing external grants delivered with partners.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The project will have the following impact on the organisation:-

The project will generate revenue for staffing

The project proposals include the upgrading and restoration of Council owned land and property.

The organisation will expend £20,000 on the London Road development stage as detailed in the financial section of this report.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

The report recommendations do not affect the Council's policy, provision of any service or its statutory functions. It is not required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The Project will bring about positive environmental impacts:-

- ❖ Restoration of buildings
- ❖ Parks and greenspace improvements
- ❖ Reusing reclaimed materials
- ❖ Provide a local and visitor attraction

The London Road Cemetery Project presents an opportunity to preserve nationally important heritage, develop the City's heritage draw, increase volunteering and training opportunities, provide facilities for the local community and the potential for income generation, introduce new uses to the site, link in with the Charterhouse Heritage Park (physically, functionally and managerially) and become part of a city heritage trail. The project will increase visitor numbers and improve the visitor experience, by providing limited on site facilities and an unmanned display, plus a range of materials for schools and others.

The delivery of both the London Road Cemetery and the Charthouse will provide a regional draw with more repeat visits and possibly weekend stays, which has much greater potential impact on the city's economy.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The project will be delivered in partnership with Historic Coventry Trust.

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